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land-er \lan-dər\ n (1859) : one that lands; esp : a space vehicle that is designed to land on a celestial body (as the moon or a planet)

land-fall \lan(d)-fəl\ n (1627) 1 : a sighting or making of land after a voyage or flight 2 : the land first sighted on a voyage or flight

land-fill \lan-fil\ n (1942) 1 : a system of trash and garbage disposal in which the waste is buried between layers of earth to build up low-lying land — called also *sanitary landfill* 2 : an area built up by landfill

land-form \lan-fɔrm\ n (1893) : a natural feature of a land surface

land-grab \lan-grab\ n (1860) : a usu. swift acquisition of land often by fraud or force — **land-grab-ber** \lan-grab-ber\ n

land grant n (1862) : a grant of land made by the government esp. for roads, railroads, or agricultural colleges

land-holder \lan-hōld-ər\ n (15c) : a holder or owner of land

land-holding \lan-hōld-ing\ n (ca. 1890) 1 : the state or fact of holding or owning land 2 : property in land — **landholding adj**

land-ing n (15c) 1 : an act or process of one that lands; esp : a going or bringing to a surface (as land or shore) after a voyage or flight 2 : a place for discharging and taking on passengers and cargo 3 : a level part of a staircase (as at the end of a flight of stairs)

landing craft n (1940) : any of numerous naval craft designed for conveying troops and equipment from a transport to a beach in an amphibious assault

landing field n (ca. 1920) : a field where aircraft may land and take off

landing gear n (1911) : the part that supports the weight of an airplane or spacecraft when in contact with the land or water

landing strip n (1930) : AIRSTRIP

land-lady \lan(l)dē\ n (ca. 1536) : a woman who is a landlord

land-line \lan-lin\ n (1865) : a line of communication (as by telephone cable) on land

land-locked \lan-läkt\ adj (1622) 1 : enclosed or nearly enclosed by land (as ~ country) 2 : confined to fresh water by some barrier (as ~ salmon)

land-lord \lōrd\ n (bef. 12c) 1 : the owner of property (as land, houses, or apartments) that is leased or rented to another 2 : the master of an inn or lodging house : INNKEEPER

land-lord-ism \lōr-di-zəm\ n (1844) : an economic system or practice by which ownership of land is vested in one who leases it to cultivators

land-lub-ber \lan-ləbər\ n (ca. 1700) : LANDSMAN 2 (clumsy ~s learning to sail) — **land-lub-ber-li-ness** \lan-ləbər-nəs\ n — **land-lub-ber-ly** \lan-ləbər-lik\ adj — **land-lub-bing** \lan-ləbəng\ adj

land-mark \lan-märk\ n (bef. 12c) 1 : an object (as a stone or tree) that marks the boundary of land 2 a : a conspicuous object on land that marks a locality b : an anatomical structure used as a point of orientation in locating other structures 3 : an event or development that marks a turning point or a stage 4 : a structure (as a building) of unusual historical and usu. aesthetic interest; esp : one that is officially designated and set aside for preservation

land-mass \lan-mas\ n (1856) : a large area of land (continental ~es)

land mine n (1890) 1 : a mine placed on or just below the surface of the ground and designed to be exploded by the weight of vehicles or troops passing over it 2 : BOOBY TRAP

land office n (1681) : a government office in which entries upon and sales of public land are registered

land-office business n (1839) : extensive and rapid business (as money changers . . . did a *land-office business* on payday —F. J. Haskin)

land-owner \lan(d)-ō-nər\ n (ca. 1733) : an owner of land — **land-owner-ship** \lan(d)-ō-nəs\ n — **land-own-ing** \lan(d)-ōnɪŋ\ adj or n

land-poor \lan(d)-pūr\ adj (1873) : owning so much unprofitable or encumbered land as to lack funds to develop the land or pay the charges due on it

Land-ra-ce \lan(d)-rä-sə\ n [Dan, fr. *land* + *race*] (1935) : a swine of any of several breeds locally developed in northern Europe

land reform n (1846) : measures designed to effect a more equitable distribution of agricultural land esp. by governmental action; also : the resulting redistribution

land-scape \lan(d)-skāp\ n, often attrib [D *landschap*, fr. *land* + *schap*-ship] (1598) 1 a : a picture representing a view of natural inland scenery b : the art of depicting such scenery 2 a : the landforms of a region in the aggregate b : a portion of territory that can be viewed at one time from one place c : a particular area of activity : SCENE (political ~) 3 obs : VISTA, PROSPECT

landscape vb **land-scaped**; **land-scap-ing** vt (1914) : to modify or ornament (a natural landscape) by altering the plant cover ~ vi : to engage in landscape gardening — **land-scap-er** n

landscape architect n (1863) : one who develops land for human use and enjoyment through effective placement of structures, vehicular and pedestrian ways, and plantings — **landscape architecture** n

landscape gardener n (ca. 1763) : one who is engaged in the development and decorative planting of gardens and grounds — **landscape gardening** n

land-scap-ist \lan(d)-skā-pist\ n (1843) : a painter of landscapes

land-slide \lan(d)-slid\ n (1838) 1 : the usu. rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope; also : the mass that moves down 2 a : a great majority of votes for one side b : an overwhelming victory

land-slide vi **land-slid** \lan(d)-slid\, -slid-ing \lan(d)-slid-ing\ (1926) 1 : to produce a landslide 2 : to win an election by a heavy majority

land-slip \lan(d)-slip\ n (1679) : LANDSLIDE 1

Lands-mal or **Lands-maal** \lan(d)-mäl\ n [Norw, fr. *land* country + *mål* speech] (1886) : NYNORSK

lands-man \lan(d)-z-män\ n (1598) 1 : a fellow countryman 2 : one who lives on the land; esp : one who knows little or nothing of the sea or seamanship

land-ward \lan(d)-wôrd\ adv or adj (15c) : to or toward the land

land yacht n (1928) : a 3-wheel wind-driven recreation vehicle consisting usu. of a bare-frame structure and a single sail and used esp. on areas of firmly packed sand

lane \lān\ n [ME, fr. OE *lanu*; akin to MD *lane* lane] (bef. 12c) 1 : a narrow passageway between fences or hedges 2 : a relatively narrow way or track : as a : an ocean route used by or prescribed for ships b : a strip of roadway for a single line of vehicles c : AIR LANE d : any of several parallel courses on a track or swimming pool in which a competitor must stay during a race e : an unmarked lengthwise division of a playing area which defines the playing zone of a particular player f : a narrow hardwood surface having pins at one end and a shallow channel along each side that is used in bowling g : FREE THROW LANE

lane Scot var of LONE

lane-way \lān-wā\ n (1882) Brit : LANE

lang-bein-ite \lan-bēn-īt\ n [G *Langbeinit*, fr. A. *Langbein*, 19th cent. Ger. chemist] (ca. 1897) : a mineral that is a double sulfate of potassium and magnesium used in the fertilizer industry

lang-lauf \lān-läuf\ n [G, fr. *lang* long + *Lauf* race] (1927) : cross-country running or racing on skis — **lang-lauf-er** \lān-läuf-ər\ n

lang-ley \lān-lē\ n, pl **langleys** [Samuel P. *Langley*] (1947) : a unit of solar radiation equivalent to one gram calorie per square centimeter of irradiated surface

Lang-gard \lan-gärd\ n [L *Langobardus*] (1788) : LÖMBARD 1a — **Lang-go-bar-dic** \lan-gäbär-dik\ adj

lang-gouste \lān-güst\ n [F, grasshopper, lobster, fr. OF *langusté*, fr. OProv *langosta*, fr. (assumed) VL *lacusta*, alter. of L *locusta*] (1832) : SPINY LOBSTER

lang-gous-tine \lān-gōstēn\ also **lang-gos-ti-nō** \lān-gōstē-nō\ n, pl **lang-gous-tines** also **ti-nos** [langoustine, fr. F, dim. of *langouste*; *langostino*, fr. Sp., dim. of *langosta* spiny lobster, locust, fr. (assumed) VL *lacusta*] (1915) : any of several small lobsters (genera *Nephropsis* and *Metanephrops*) of the family Nephropidae widely used for food

lang syne \lān-sin\, -sin\ adj [ME (Sc), fr. *lang* long + *syne* since] (15c) chiefly Scot : at a distant time in the past

lang syne n (1694) chiefly Scot : times past (should auld acquaintance be forgot, and days o' auld lang syne —Robert Burns)

lang-ue \lān-gwē\ n [OF, fr. L *lingua* — more at TONGUE] (14c) 1 a : the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by a community b : (1) : audible, articulate, meaningful sound as produced by the action of the vocal organs (2) : a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings (3) : the suggestion by objects, actions, or conditions of associated ideas or feelings (~ in their very gesture —Shak.) (4) : the means by which animals communicate (5) : a formal system of signs and symbols (as FORTRAN or a calculus in logic) including rules for the formation and transformation of admissible expressions (6) : MACHINE LANGUAGE 1 2 a : form or manner of verbal expression; specif: STYLE b : the vocabulary and phraseology belonging to an art or a department of knowledge c : PROFANITY 3 : the study of language esp. as a school subject

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HOME LANGUAGES WITH OVER
FORTY MILLION SPEAKERS¹

LANGUAGE	MILLIONS	LANGUAGE	MILLIONS
Mandarin Chinese	865	Korean	70
English	334	Marathi	68
Spanish	283	Italian	68
Arabic	197	Tamil	65
Bengali	181	French	65
Hindi and Urdu	172	Vietnamese	61
Portuguese	161	Awadhi ²	61
Russian	156	Bhojpuri	58
Japanese	125	Southern Min Chinese ³	55
German	104	Turkish	52
Wu Chinese	94	Ukrainian	50
Punjabi	76	Thai and Lao	47
Javanese	76	Polish	42
Telugu	72	Gujarati	41
Cantonese	70	Persian	40

¹ Compiled by William W. Gage, using information supplied in *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 11th ed. (Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1988). Home language used here means the language usually spoken at home.

² Indo-Aryan language of eastern and central Uttar Pradesh.

³ Group of Chinese dialects esp. of Xiamen, Shantou, and Taiwan.

language arts n pl (1948) : the subjects (as reading, spelling, literature, and composition) that aim at developing the student's comprehension and capacity for use of written and oral language

langue \lān-gü\ n [F, lit., language] (1924) : language viewed abstractly as a system of forms and conventions used for communication in a community; also : COMPETENCE 3 — compare PAROLE

langue d'oc \lān-dōk, läng-dōk\ n [F, fr. OF, lit., language of oc; fr. the Provencal use of the word *oc* for "yes"] (1703) : PROVENCAL 2

langue d'oïl \lān-dōi\ n [lān-dōi(ə)], -dōi, läng-dō-ēl, -dōi\ n [F, fr. OF, lit., language of oil; fr. the French use of the word *oil* for "yes"] (1703) : FRENCH 1

lang-ue \lān-gwē\ n [ME, fr. MF *languete*, dim. of *langue*] (15c) : something resembling the tongue in form or function

lan-guid \lān-gwēd\ adj [MF *languid*, fr. L *languidus*, fr. *languere* to languish — more at SLACK] (1597) 1 : drooping or flagging from or as if from exhaustion : WEAK 2 : sluggish in character or disposition

: LISTLESS 3 : lacking force or quickness of movement : SLOW — **lan-guid-ly** adv — **lan-guid-ness** n

lan-guish \lān-gwēsh\ vi [ME, fr. MF *languiss-*, stem of *languir*, fr. (assumed) VL *languire*, fr. L *languere*] (14c) 1 a : to be or become feeble, weak, or enervated b : to be or live in a state of depression or decreasing vitality 2 a : to become dispirited : PINE (~ing in prison) b : to suffer neglect (the bill ~ed in the Senate for eight months) 3 : to assume an expression of grief or emotion appealing for sympathy — **lan-gui-sher** n — **lan-gui-shing-ly** \lān-gwēsh-ēl\ adv — **lan-gui-shment** \lān-gwēsh-mēnt\ n

lan-guor \lān-gōr\ also -ər\ n [ME, fr. MF, fr. L, fr. *languēre*] (14c) 1 : weakness or weariness of body or mind 2 : listless indolence or inertia *syn* see LETHARGY

lan-guor-ous \lān-gō-rəs, -grəs also -ə-rəs\ adj (15c) 1 : producing or tending to produce languor (a ~ climate) 2 : full of or characterized by languor — **lan-guor-ous-ly** adv